


REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 31, 2002. Claims 12-17 remain pending in this application. Claim 12 is the independent claim. Claims 1-11 have been cancelled to moot the Office Action's 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of Claims 12-17. Applicants hereby reserve the right to reenter Claims 1-11 in subsequent prosecution on the merits.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the currently-pending claims clearly define statutory subject matter. Accordingly, allowance of the currently-pending claims is now respectfully submitted to be justified, and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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